(v) This Ministry has requested the Chief Secretaries of all States to advise District Magistrates and Superintendents of Police to include anti-piracy measures in their monthly activity reports.

(vi) Draft Optical Disc Law, to counter possible ways of piracy in the entertainment sector, prepared by FICCI on the request of this Ministry, is under examination.

(vii) In addition, this Ministry is providing all round support to Digital cinema exhibition to contain piracy.

(viii) The suggestions of the industry for amendments in the Copyright Act have been communicated to the Ministry of Human Resource Development for consideration.

(ix) On the recommendation of SIMCON, a Sub-Group comprising of representative of eight State Governments to explore possible ways of reduction of rate of entertainment tax and to contain piracy, has been constituted, which has begun deliberating the issue.

Depriving women officers from permanent commission

*109. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are about 1000, 570 and 160 women in Army, Air Force and Navy respectively;

(b) if so, what are the reasons that women officers do not get permanent commission;

(c) whether it is also a fact that though since 1990s women officers are being inducted into the Armed Forces, they are being deprived from permanent commission; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government on the above?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (d) The present strength of women officers in Army, Air Force and Navy is as under:

Army	Air Force	Navy
4101*	784*	252*

*Including Army Medical Corps, Army Dental Corps and Military Nursing Services.

The women officers are appointed both in Short Service and Permanent Commissions in the Medical Nursing and Dental Services. In these Services, Short Service Commission (SSC) women officers are also eligible for Permanent Commission. The women officers are also appointed as SSC officers in some select branches in the three Defence Forces. However, they are not made eligible for grant of Permanent Commission in other Arms and Services. Women officers are treated at par with similarly placed male counterparts in terms of recruitment, training, tenure of service, promotion etc.

The induction of women officers in the three Services started in 1992. Appointment of women officers has been progressively extended to different Arms/Services in the three services. They are, however, not being commissioned into close combat Arms in the Army. In the Air Force, women are being inducted in all combatant streams except fighter stream. In the Navy, there have been restrictions in employing women officers to onboard ships and submarines. The issues of combat employability and grant of permanent commission are interlinked. Due to the existing combat employability restrictions, Permanent Commission to women officers could not be considered.

A study carried out by the Services on the issue has recommended that women officers be excluded from induction in close combat Arms where chances of physical contact with enemy are high. The study has concluded that it is essential to obtain feed back on their performance based on revised pre-commission training (from 24 weeks to 49 weeks), detailment on courses such as junior command course and assessment of their performance as sub unit commanders especially in field areas; for holding higher ranks and grant of Permanent Commission. In the light of the above, grant of Permanent Commission to women has not been recommended presently.

Revamping of EPF networking and digitalisation project

*110. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the project, launched almost seven years ago to provide access to members of Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) through networking and digitalisation of more than 110 EPF offices, is to be revamped;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether the EPFO Board of Trustees has taken a decision to re-launch this much delayed project and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) to (c) The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation launched a programme called 'Re-Inventing EPF India' in the year 2001, which envisaged total revamp of the processes and procedures.

The application software developed by the consultants was given in the year 2006-07. On testing, the software was found to be inadequate to meet the requirements, thus, necessitating considerable improvements.

To set right the deficiencies, the consultants had asked for changes in the contract apart from financial compensation. The Central Board of Trustees, Employees' Provident Fund considered the issue and gave directions to explore alternate options. Accordingly, the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation has sought assistance from the National Informatics Centre (NIC), Ministry of Communications & Information Technology in implementing the project.

Threat on Naxalism to internal security

*111. DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that naxalism is the biggest threat to internal security;

(b) whether it is a fact that the forested regions of Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Telangana and Vidarbha are the main centres of relatively successful Maoist activity;

(c) whether the absence of sufficient public intervention specially in Education, Health and Employment has allowed non-State factors to push their agenda among the tribals; and